

Why the Arts are Vital to Providing a Well-Rounded Education

The research compendium *Critical Links*, sponsored by the Arts Education Partnership, documented more than 65 distinct relationships between the arts and academic and social outcomes. The compendium identified six areas where student achievement benefited from the study of the arts:

- Reading and language skills
- Mathematic skills
- Thinking skills
- Social skills
- Motivation to learn
- Positive school environment

To read more about this research and how the arts impact students' lives, visit the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies website and download a free copy of the report *Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement* at www.nasaa-arts.org/publications/critical-evidence.pdf

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

For more information on the impact of the *No Child Left Behind* Legislation on the Arts, visit the Arts Education section of the Americans for the Arts website at www.americansforthearts.org/services/arts_education/arts_education_015.asp

Arts Education is an Investment We Must Afford

*Mandy Buscas, Arts Learning Director,
Arizona Commission on the Arts*

A new study from the Center on Education Policy states that since *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) was enacted nearly half of U.S. school districts have reduced the time their students spend on subjects such as art and music.

Across Arizona school districts have cut back on art-based learning activities as educators are forced to respond to the demands of NCLB and high-stakes testing.

However, not all school districts have had this all-or-nothing approach. Many school districts have embraced the arts, not only for their importance in educating the whole child, but also for their own intrinsic value. By making and learning through the arts, students are able to think creatively and become problem solvers. The arts create a foundation for an innovative workforce and inform us not only of our own history and culture, but of others' as well.

Today, we can find lifelong learning in the arts beyond the PreK–12 classroom, from after-school taiko drumming classes offered at the local Boys and Girls Club, to poet-in-residence programs at senior centers.

Art-based learning is thriving throughout our community. The Arizona Commission on the Arts supports these quality arts learning programs in a myriad of settings through programs, grants, and technical assistance.

Generally, the strongest programs for school age students are created and implemented through effective partnerships among arts organizations, teaching artists, classroom teachers, and arts specialists. In addition to our annual funding to schools and organizations to support art-based learning, the Commission is pleased to announce a pilot grant program titled *Partners in Arts Learning*. This grant program was developed to provide arts learning experiences to broaden, deepen, and diversify a community's relationship with arts organizations by engaging children, families, and neighborhoods. The goal of the program is to provide funding to arts organizations to create



Lynn/Urquides Elementary School, 4th grade Violin Class. Photo courtesy of Opening Minds through the Arts Foundation

sustainable partnerships with schools and communities.

Additionally, the Commission has launched a second pilot grant program, *Step into Arts Learning*, which provides schools and communities with limited access to arts learning resources with a non-matching grant to engage learners in structured artist-in-residence programs.

These new grant programs provide exposure to the arts and also deepen the impact of arts learning experiences through hands-on art-making opportunities with teaching artists.

In a recent commencement speech at Stanford University, National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia—speaking to the loss of recognition of artists, poets, and thinkers challenges the schools of today not to turn away from arts education: “The purpose of arts education is not to produce more artists, though that is a byproduct. The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society.”

As the reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001 approaches, it is incumbent upon parents, educators, arts leaders, and supporters of the arts to inform their elected officials in Congress about the academic and intrinsic value of arts education for all students, and to request that arts education be supported as a part of all students core curriculum.

Websites

Founded in 1991, the Society for the Arts in Healthcare is dedicated to promoting the incorporation of the arts as an integral component of healthcare.
www.thesah.org

The Field Organization is a group of top-level professionals with hands-on experience and a bit of wisdom gained over the past three decades that has come together because they believe they can be of service to the field. Their services are available directly to performing arts organizations, museums, community arts centers, as well as local and state government agencies, and funders. They can work with you to help you find solutions, to launch a new project, or to rejuvenate an old one.
www.fieldorg.com

Art Car World is a museum dedicated entirely to the celebration and preservation of this popular mobile art form. Art Car World is located in historic downtown Douglas, Arizona.
www.artcarworld.org

The Museum Of Bad Art (MOBA) is a community-based, private institution dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition and celebration of bad art in all its forms and in all its glory. MOBA was founded in the fall of 1993 and presented its first show in March 1994. As the only museum dedicated to bringing the worst of art to the widest of audiences the museum felt morally compelled to explore new, more creative ways of bringing this priceless collection of quality bad art to a global audience.
www.museumofbadart.org

AFTA Research Services at the Americans for the Arts offers customized survey consulting. The combination of staff research expertise and their advanced web-based survey technology is extremely affordable, completely reliable, and designed to make credible research accessible to every arts organization in the country.
www.americansforthearts.org/information_resources/research_information/default.asp

The Director's Column

How do you celebrate someone's 100th birthday? You might receive a letter from the President of the United States, or a card from Queen Elizabeth wishing you well, or even a fancy certificate from the Pope. Or your face might appear on a Smucker's jam label, after the weather report, with the *Today Show's* own Willard Scott gushing you a happy birthday.

Winnie Langley, a British woman who started smoking in 1914 at the age of seven, got to light her cigarette off the candles of her own cake. In Japan, you receive a silver cup and a certificate from the Prime Minister, and from then on, you become an honored guest at all the special events and celebrations in the community.

In 2012, Arizona will be celebrating its 100th birthday with large and small celebrations, special publications, community enhancement projects, and preservation activities throughout the state. One way you or your organization can be counted among the celebrations is to receive an official **Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation**.

The vision for the centennial projects is that these commemorations encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thereby ensuring a lasting legacy.

So, how does your project gain official designation? The project must:

- Accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history;
- Be accessible to a large number of visitors/users;
- Demonstrate collaboration in the planning;

- Produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012;
- Include an educational component;
- Include a plan for implementation.

It's a simple three-page application, and there are two ways to apply: online or by downloading the form (see the details below). I encourage arts organizations, artists, educators, and communities across Arizona to imagine projects that reflect the heritage, diversity, and creativity of the arts in Arizona.

Maybe it is a play about your community written by a local playwright for the community theatre; an exhibition of historic photographs from neighbors that show the architecture of your community; a renovation of a historic landmark; a work of public art; a book of poetry; or, a musical composition for the community band to play on Valentine's Day—the day Arizona became a state.

We in the arts community have so many strong creative voices that can add to the chorus of our celebration in 2012. Let's make sure the arts and culture of our state are part of this big party.

For more information on the celebration and legacy designation or to download an application or apply online, visit the Arizona Centennial website at www.azcentennial.gov.

Spread the word! Talk to your friends, community members, arts leaders, artists, and educators about applying for a Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation.

Robert C. Booker
Executive Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts



Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project

The Arizona Centennial Committee has announced a call for artists or arts organization that wish to participate in the 2012 Legacy Project. Commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy, are welcome. For more information or to download an application visit www.azcentennial.gov/index.cfm/LegacyProject.

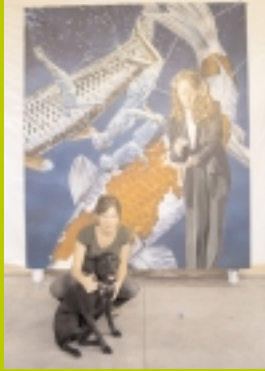
"Arizona's Centennial provides a wonderful opportunity for Arizona to celebrate our treasured past and our rich and diverse history. I look forward to working with the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission and all the outstanding cultural and historical institutions across the state as we prepare for Arizona's Centennial and celebrate all that has been accomplished as well as the bright future ahead."
—Governor Janet Napolitano

Faces in the Arts

Julie Comnick, Painting/Drawing Recipient of 2007 Artist Projects Grant

Tell us about yourself and/or your background. I grew up in Columbus, Ohio. I moved to Olympia, Washington, where I pursued my B.A. at

The Evergreen State College, and where I focused on American Studies and Visual Art. After college I moved to Seattle, where I co-founded Oculus, a cooperative art gallery in Pioneer Square. A few years later I moved to Bozeman, Montana where I received my MFA in painting from Montana State University (MSU). MSU solidified for me the importance of a close-knit, interdisciplinary academic environment that challenged me to seek out connections across disciplines. I then moved to Chicago, where I worked as an Exhibits Preparator at the Field Museum of Natural History and The Chicago Historical Society, and taught art classes at the Hyde Park Art Center. In 2004, I moved to Prescott, taking with me furniture-maker and now husband, Chris Jones. I am a member of the Arts and Letters faculty at Prescott College, teaching Studio Arts courses, including painting, drawing, and art history/theory.



Julie Comnick (Prescott, Arizona)
Photo Credit: Chris Jones

Briefly describe the nature of the project you are working on now.

My project, *Navigating the Menagerie*, is a series of paintings that explore the role of the exotic in contemporary Western culture. In my research on the topic, I found that the origins of the exotic are rooted in 18th-century French wildlife menageries; exotic gaming and safari industries in Africa; and the modern circus in Europe and the United States. In those examples, when an animal became identified as exotic, its peculiarities became desirable. As it entered the domain of the menagerie, its value depended upon its scarcity.

In my paintings I explore themes of subjugation and misrepresentation by creating unexpected associations among seemingly ordinary objects, and by doing so, hope to expose our reliance on peculiarity. By revealing the stigma behind the extraordinary, my images ask the viewer to consider how the concept of the exotic masks genuine cultural integration. The objective of this project is to draw attention to cultural misrepresentations of the exotic, and the subjugation of the other in contemporary Western society.

Sean Nevin, Poet Recipient of 2007 Artist Projects Grant

Tell us about yourself and/or your background. I'm originally from Montclair, New Jersey. Before earning my MFA in Creative Writing from Arizona State University (ASU), I received an M.A. in Literature from Queens College C.U.N.Y. while working as a captain (a waiter with clean hands) at Tavern on The Green in New York City. I have held many jobs including construction laborer, environmental writer for an international N.G.O. and have taught English in South Korea, Japan, and India. And it was while I was traveling in India that I decided to take the leap, to follow my dream and become a poet (whatever I thought that was).

I taught poetry in the public schools for many years through the Commission's Residency Roster and continue that important work today through my position as Assistant Director of the ASU Young Writers Program. For the past nine years, I have also consistently taught creative writing at the university level. As a poet and teaching artist, I believe deeply in experiencing life and as many cultures and communities as I can. This is how I discovered writing and teaching and it is the creative wellspring that I draw from again and again.

Briefly describe the nature of the project you are working on now.

My project, *Oblivio Gate*, is an original collection of poetry focused on Solomon, an aging Korean War veteran suffering from Alzheimer's disease. *Oblivio*, loosely translated from the Latin, means forgetfulness and suggests a profound sense of being lost and is one of the earliest labels connected to senile dementia. The poems, in several voices, explore the way the mind, the body, language, relationships, and the physical world all begin to disarticulate under the ravages of the disease. *Oblivio Gate* chronicles not only what is lost, but also what is found, what is beautiful, pure, and even funny in all of our fleeting lives.



Sean Nevin (Tempe, Arizona)
Photo Credit: Jim Esposito

Calendar

January 11, 2008

Southwest Arts Conference
Earlybird Registration Deadline

Save the Date!

January 25, 2008

31st Southwest Arts
Conference at the Glendale
Civic Center

February 4, 2008

Arizona Arts Congress
State Capitol Mall Lawn

**IRS Creates New Website
for Organizations Applying
for 501(c)3 Status**

The IRS has created a new website (www.stayexempt.org) that enables new organizations to apply for 501(c) status without using a lawyer. Robert C. Booker, Executive Director of the Commission, said that the website is helpful and easy to follow. "The hassle about applying for 501(c)3 status has always been about the time and expenses involved. I highly recommend this site to anyone who has been putting off applying or who might be interested in starting a 501(c)3."



Held every October, **National Arts and Humanities Month** (NAHM) is a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture in America. Coordinated by Americans for the Arts, it is the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation. From arts center open houses to mayoral proclamations to storefront banners and newspaper articles, thousands of communities across the United States are recognizing the cultural gems all around them.

For more information, go to www.americansforthearts.org/get_involved/visibility/visibility_002.asp

Changes at the Commission

The Commission wishes to say *bonne chance* to four dear colleagues and friends who are moving on to other adventures. **Claire West**, Performing Arts Director, has taken her vast experience and skills to Ballet Arizona. **Gregory Sale**, Visual Arts Director, has accepted a position as Visiting Professor of Intermedia at the Herberger College of Arts at Arizona State University. **Alison Marshall**, Arts Learning Director, will be teaching at Wellsley College, as well as choreographing and performing in the States and abroad. **Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker**, Strategic Initiatives Director, has moved down the street and is now working as a Public Art Project Manager for the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture. Please join us in thanking them for years of selfless service to the arts in our state. We'll miss you!

... Yet even as we say goodbye to our former colleagues, the Commission is delighted to welcome two new program directors. **Jennifer Tsukayama**, Performing Arts Director, comes to the Commission with 15 years of artistic,

administrative and teaching experience in modern dance, arts education and community outreach. Her past experience includes working as the founding and artistic director of *tsukayama dance collaborative (tdc)*, a modern dance repertoire company devoted to integrating dance and technology to site specific and community works. **Adriana Yadira Gallego**, the Commission's new Visual Arts Director, is a visual artist who, in addition to her own artistic work, has experience as an art teacher in schools, and has worked as a technical consultant, museum educator and lecturer, and artist in residence in Southern California and Arizona.

The Commission would also like to welcome four new members to its board: **Lisa Barnes** (Mesa), **Natalie Lang** (Scottsdale), **Danita Rios** (Phoenix), and **Judith "Judy" Walsh** (Oracle). **Governor Napolitano** reappointed both **Virginia Cárdenas** (Chandler) for another term as chair of the board, and **Victoria Cumminskey** (Phoenix) as vice chair of the board.



SAVE THE DATE

The 31st Southwest Arts Conference

Friday, January 25, 2008
Glendale Civic Center

Visit www.azarts.gov/swac
to register today!

Early registration discounts are
available for individuals and
teams until January 11, 2008

This document is available in an
alternate format by contacting the
Arts Commission at (602) 771-6501.



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